

**Serial No. 09/896,853**

**Art Unit: 1751**

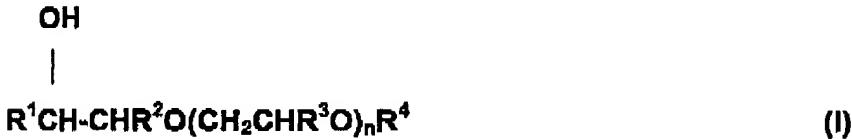
**In the Claims:**

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-10 (Canceled)**

**Claim 11 (Currently Amended):** A method for improving the cleaning performance of an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition, the detergent composition comprising: water, anionic co-surfactants, typical auxiliaries and additives, wherein whereby, the cleaning performance is improved by adding to the detergent composition from about 1 to 35% by weight of a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:

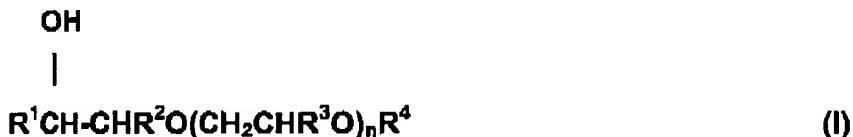


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^2$  is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen or methyl,  $\text{R}^4$  is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 22 carbon atoms,  $n$  is a number from 1 to 50 and, wherein, the total number of carbon atoms in  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is at least 6 and, wherein, the percent by weight is based on the total weight of the detergent composition and the hydroxy mixed ether.

**Claim 12 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether comprises a compound of the formula:

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms and n is a number from 2 to 25, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.

**Claim 13 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 14 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended):** The method of claim 11, wherein, the co-surfactant comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, and zwitterionic surfactants.

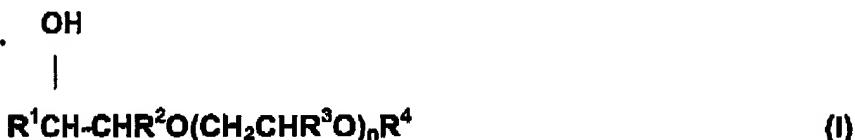
**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** The method of claim 15 wherein the co-surfactant comprises nonionic surfactants and anionic surfactants in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by combined weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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**Claim 17 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 11 wherein the liquid detergent composition comprises: at least one member selected from the group consisting of builders, polymers, redeposition inhibitors, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, perfumes and bleaching agents.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 10 to 16 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 8 to 18 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6 12.

**Claim 19 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether (I) comprises from 1-10 propoxy groups.

**Claim 20 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 19 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from 1 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 21 (Currently Amended):** The method of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises at least one co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, and

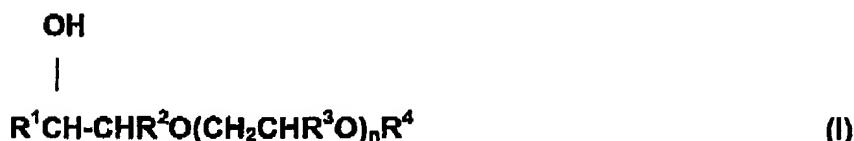
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**zwitterionic surfactants.**

**Claim 22 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 23 (Previously Presented):** A process for cleaning textiles comprising contacting the textiles with an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition containing: a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^2$  is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen or methyl,  $\text{R}^4$  is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 22 carbon atoms and  $n$  is a number from 1 to 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is at least 6, co-surfactants, additives and auxiliaries.